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The President's Daily Brief

October 8, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Table of Contents

Thailand: The new military regime in Bangkok appears firmly in control. (Page 1)

Rhodesia: Leaders of Bishop Muzorewa's black nationalist faction will meet tomorrow in Salisbury to consider various settlement proposals. Many white Rhodesians appear to have accepted the likelihood of a black Rhodesian government within two years. (Page 2)

Cuba: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Page 3)

25X1

Notes: Lebanon; Namibia-Cuba; USSR-Angola; UK; Somalia-FTAI; Colombia (Pages 4, 5, and 6)

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25X1

THAILAND: *The new military regime in Bangkok appears firmly in control.*

The curfew that was imposed on the first night of martial law has been lifted.

Admiral Sa-ngat and his colleagues continue to take pains to convey the impression that they intend to pave the way for an eventual return to representative government. Twenty-four generals have been appointed to the new ruling body--the National Administrative Reform Council--but the military leaders are having difficulty identifying and persuading prestigious and compatible civilians to serve on the council with them.

Sa-ngat has indicated that the new council should expect to manage Thailand's affairs for only a few months until an interim civilian government backed by the military can be formed, but council members differ widely on their probable term in office. A national assembly is being envisioned to rewrite portions of the constitution, presumably to increase the prime minister's power and to assure that the new government will be more stable.

The strongly anticomunist posture of the new regime has provoked sharp comment from Hanoi.

Vietnam accuses the Thai military of collaborating with the US in arranging the return of exiled dictators in a deliberate scheme to provoke the downfall of parliamentary government. Hanoi warns that if the new government follows a pro-US policy it will face serious consequences.


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RHODESIA: *The leadership of Bishop Muzorewa's nationalist faction will meet tomorrow in Salisbury to consider various settlement proposals.*



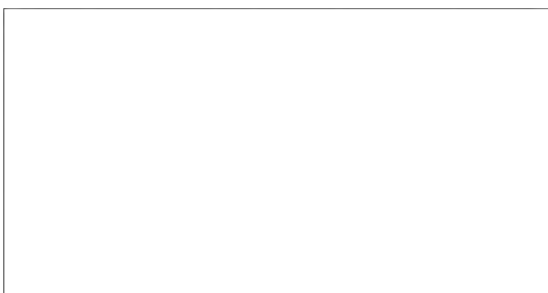
 The Muzorewa faction is against allowing whites to remain in control of the defense and security forces during the transitional period, a view

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 shared by other nationalist groups.

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Many white Rhodesians appear to have accepted the likelihood of a black Rhodesian government within two years.

Few businessmen in Salisbury are preparing to leave the country. Those with moderate views hope to remain indefinitely in a black-ruled Rhodesia, while some conservatives still do not fully believe that Prime Minister Smith will acquiesce in majority rule.

The intention of many whites to remain in the country could change quickly if the blacks succeed in gaining control of the defense and law and order portfolios under an interim government. The whites fear that this would lead to widespread violence by the unruly guerrilla forces and that continuing disunity among the black groups may also lead to violence.

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Many whites favor Joshua Nkomo,
who is widely regarded as the most
moderate black leader, to become
the first black head of government.

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CUBA:

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Since June, Cuban exile organiza-
tions have claimed responsibility
for attacks against Cuban offi-
cials and installations and pro-
Castro organizations in Barbados,
Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and
Trinidad and Tobago, in addition
to those in Panama and Mexico.

*A spokesman for what
presumably is a Cuban
exile group claims his
organization placed a
bomb aboard the Cuban
airlines plane that
crashed Wednesday in
Barbados.*

Havana has sent a team to Barbados,
and if further investigation con-
firms sabotage, the Cubans can be
expected to use the incident to
dramatize the threat from Cuban ex-
ile terrorists.

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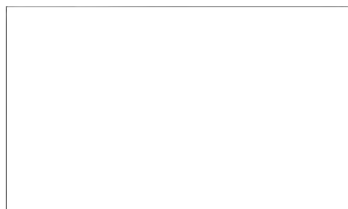
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Recent US efforts to arrange a peaceful transition to independence in Namibia have prompted Cuba to underscore its continuing commitment to the "liberation" of Namibia.

Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West Africa People's Organization is being accorded all the courtesies and fanfare usually reserved for friendly chiefs of state during his current visit to Cuba.

The Cuban party daily carried a lengthy editorial denouncing the plan for Namibia's independence as a joint neocolonialist concoction of Washington and Pretoria that is doomed to failure. Nujoma was quoted as saying that SWAPO, "as the vanguard of the Namibian people, will have no alternative except to continue and intensify the armed struggle for liberation as the only effective road that will lead the people to power."

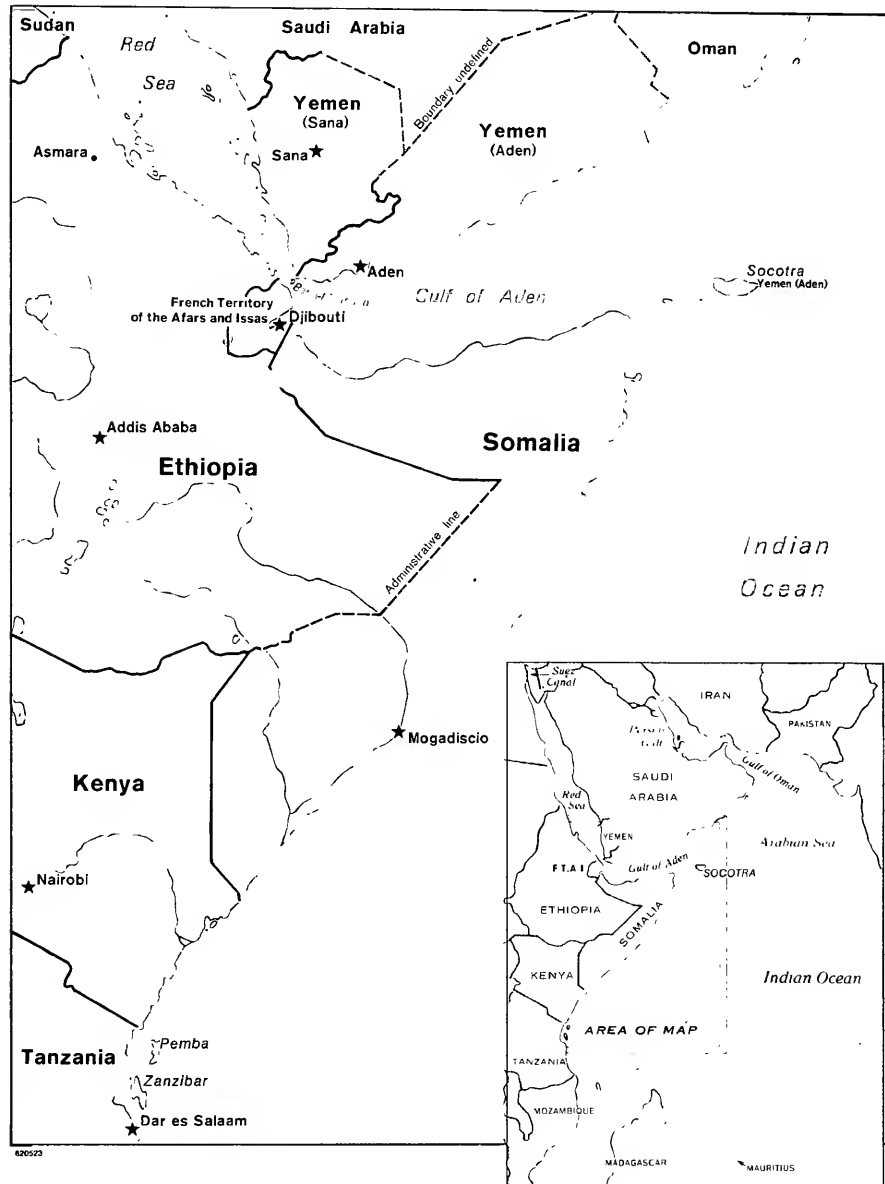
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In the Soviet Union, visiting Angolan President Agostinho Neto also is getting high-level treatment.

When he arrived in Moscow yesterday, Neto was greeted by President Podgorny, Foreign Minister Gromyko, and First Deputy Premier Tikhonov, who probably is filling in for ailing Premier Kosygin. Later in the day General Secretary Brezhnev hosted a dinner for Neto.

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In addition to developments in southern Africa, Soviet assistance will be high on the agenda during the visit. Neto brought with him officials responsible for economic and military affairs. The value of Soviet assistance will be limited, however, since what Angola needs to revive its economy quickly is Western technology and markets.

* * *

The British government yesterday took drastic steps to slow the growth in the money supply and cut inflation.

In a surprise move, the Bank of England's minimum lending rate was boosted by two percentage points to a record 15 percent. Chancellor of the Exchequer Healey also instructed the Bank of England to call up special deposits from commercial banks equivalent to 2 percent of most deposit liabilities. In reaction to the announcement, the pound rallied somewhat from the day's low of \$1.6380, closing at \$1.6670 in London.

The minimum lending rate has now been hiked 6 percentage points since mid-April. The government also increased the special deposit requirement by 1 percent in September.

The announcement yesterday was aimed at least partly at the International Monetary Fund, to which London has applied for a \$3.9-billion loan.

* * *

We estimate that the Somalis could now have up to 8,000 troops--at least one quarter of their army--near Somalia's border with the French Territory of the Afars and Issas.

Somalia may have moved one motorized infantry and one field artillery battalion to the border area, where two infantry battalions already have been stationed.

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According to current French plans, the FTAI will become independent following a referendum early next year. Somalia would like to incorporate the territory--a majority of whose population is ethnic Somali--and has formed guerrilla units to undertake subversive activity against the territory if it is dissatisfied with the government that comes to power in Djibouti after independence.

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Colombian President Lopez has again imposed a nationwide state of siege.

Government spokesmen said the action was necessary to counter a wave of labor unrest and kidnappings. It may also be timed to guarantee optimum security conditions during the official visit next week of Spanish King Juan Carlos. Colombia has a long tradition of student and labor problems, as well as urban and rural violence. The previous state of siege, lifted in June, lasted a year.

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